



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 6, 2007

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Good week for Field Work: Spring really made a bold presence during the week, as temperatures were above normal. Many people enjoyed the Apple Blossom Festival last weekend, which took place in Adams County. Farmers took advantage of the warm weather last week. Many got out in the fields and caught up on some plowing and planting. Crops such as wheat, oats, barley, rye, and hay have been showing good growth. Overall, 5 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spreading manure and fertilizer, checking and servicing tillage and planting equipment, spreading lime, preparing the ground for no till planting, hauling manure, spring plowing, cleaning barnyards, and planting corn, potatoes and oats.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 6, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	4	85	11

Crops: Thirty-two percent of the state's corn crop has been planted. This is 23 percentage points behind this time last year and 9 points behind the five-year average. Last week farmers made some very strong attempts to get caught up with corn plantings. The planted crop is 25 percentage points farther along than the previous week. The 5 good days for fieldwork were definitely used by those planting oats. Seventy-one percent of the oats in the state have now been planted. This is an increase of 27 percentage points from the previous week. Planted oats are still behind the five-year average by 12 percentage points. Twenty-one percent of the planted oats have emerged. This is 30 points behind this time last year and 25 points behind the five-year average. Seventy-seven percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition. This is 6 percentage points lower than the previous week. Twelve percent of the wheat is now in the heading stage. This is right on target with the five-year average and this time last year. Despite an 8 point increase from last week, at 12 percent currently headed, barley is still significantly behind this time last year. Barley headed is 64 percentage points behind last year and 42 points behind the 5-year average. Last week there were also many farmers planting potatoes. Twenty-three percent of the potato crop has been planted. This is 24 points behind last year and 20 points behind the 5-year average. Fifty percent of tobacco has been planted. This is also running behind both the five-year average and this time last year. Sixty-nine percent of the alfalfa is in good or excellent condition. Seventy-eight percent of timothy hay is in good or excellent condition. Ninety-nine percent of the cherries have now entered the pink stage, which is 1 point lower than this time last year. On the other hand this year's cherries are 23 percentage points ahead of the five year average. Also, 87 percent of the cherries are in full bloom. This is substantially lower than this time last year which was 100 percent. Ninety-nine percent of the peaches have entered the pink stage. This is 1 percentage points lower than this time last year but 20 points higher than

the 5-year average. Eighty-eight percent of the peaches are now in full bloom, which is 12 points lower than last year, and 11 percentage points lower than the 5-year average. Ninety-nine percent of the apples have entered the pink stage, which is 1 percentage points lower than last year and 22 points lower than the five year average.

Livestock: This week was really good for livestock. The fields were given time to dry out. Warmer temperatures did enable growth for pastures. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 2%, poor 7%, fair 27%, good 56%, and excellent 8%.

U.S. as of April 29, 2007: Near to above normal temperatures prevailed nationwide, as moderate to heavy rains fell across much of the Nation's mid section during the week. Across the northern Plains, warm, dry weather was favorable for spring planting and crop development. Midweek storms across the central Plains and the Corn Belt led to weekly rainfall totals in excess of 4 inches over much of the area and brought spring planting and other fieldwork to a standstill.

Corn: Planting was underway in all states, advancing 12 percentage points during the week to 23 percent complete, well-behind last year's 48 percent and the 42 percent average. Progress in most States was well-behind last year and normal, especially in the Corn Belt. Planting lagged 32 points behind normal in Iowa and 23 points behind normal in Illinois, where 14 and 36 percent of the intended corn acreage was sown, respectively. Planting in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio also lagged 17 to 28 points behind normal. By week's end, only 4 percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 12 percent last year and the 10 percent average.

Soybeans: Only 3 percent of the intended acreage was planted by week's end, compared with 9 percent last year and the 7 percent average. Growers in most states were behind schedule with 5 percent or less planted. Planting had not yet begun in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Winter Wheat: Twenty-six percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, compared with 38 percent last year and the 28 percent average. Following adverse weather conditions in many states earlier in the month, more seasonal temperatures and adequate moisture supplies since then have caused crop condition ratings to change very little over the past two weeks.

Small Grains: Barley planting, at 43 percent complete, was 11 points ahead of last year, and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifteen percent of the crop had emerged, 8 points ahead of last year and 1 point ahead of normal.

Oat growers had planted 62 percent of their acreage, compared with 77 percent last year and the 73 percent average. Growers in all States made significant progress during the week, but planting continued to lag behind the normal pace. Thirty-five percent of the crop had emerged, 13 points behind last year and 12 points behind normal.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 6, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 6, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	66	38	53	0	0.55	2	3.00	-0.87	16	82	23	284
Franklin	80	39	58	6	1.23	2	5.67	1.45	18	114	56	327
Meadville	73	41	56	6	0.07	1	2.65	-1.31	19	121	77	328
Mercer	81	41	58	6	0.67	2	5.38	1.34	17	128	68	335
Springboro	73	36	53	1	1.55	3	4.89	1.14	24	69	5	263
Warren	70	37	54	3	1.00	2	4.98	0.73	18	68	19	263
North Central												
Bradford Region	68	33	51	3	1.21	3	4.52	0.42	20	47	19	213
Emporium	74	34	54	5	1.33	2	5.10	0.89	18	75	42	280
Kane	69	30	50	3	1.02	2	5.65	1.29	20	26	0	190
Laporte	66	37	52	-2	0.67	2	4.83	0.84	21	52	-17	227
Lock Haven	77	36	57	3	1.03	1	3.78	0.04	14	116	40	330
Port Allegany	68	30	51	1	1.11	2	4.63	0.82	18	38	0	210
Renovo	76	37	57	4	0.82	2	4.58	0.84	13	115	39	328
Ridgway	75	34	54	5	1.08	2	5.01	0.80	18	53	20	240
Stevenson Dam	75	33	55	5	0.74	1	4.57	0.36	16	88	55	287
Towanda	69	31	51	-3	0.38	2	4.10	0.54	20	48	-21	228
Wellsboro	68	33	51	3	1.00	1	4.18	1.28	15	49	19	217
Williamsport	77	37	57	3	0.74	2	3.64	-0.28	16	135	28	373
Northeast												
Hawley	70	30	50	-2	0.27	2	5.89	1.74	13	33	-6	219
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	72	37	55	1	0.43	2	4.48	0.85	17	103	20	320
Susquehanna	68	33	51	2	0.41	2	5.02	0.66	17	44	11	229
West Central												
Butler	84	39	58	6	0.36	2	3.95	0.03	17	131	58	343
New Castle	85	37	59	7	0.24	2	2.70	-0.95	14	146	85	368
Slippery Rock	84	39	60	8	0.49	2	3.98	0.18	18	151	98	367
Central												
Altoona/Blair	79	40	59	6	0.21	1	3.06	-0.77	13	150	54	362
DuBois	77	37	57	5	0.98	2	4.57	0.51	20	117	60	319
Lewistown	78	38	59	4	0.50	1	3.70	0.04	13	142	20	366
Middletown	79	45	60	3	0.00	0	3.31	-0.71	10	177	32	426
Prince Gallitzi	82	33	56	5	0.50	3	4.74	-0.40	19	90	38	282
Selinsgrove	78	37	56	2	0.51	1	3.59	-0.27	15	95	2	310
State College	77	42	59	6	0.69	1	4.15	0.60	13	144	64	362
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	79	37	57	2	0.47	2	6.33	2.03	15	136	26	367
Lehighton	78	37	55	0	0.63	3	5.64	1.57	16	99	-3	317
Matamoras	73	34	52	-3	0.21	3	7.03	2.23	15	69	-12	275
Mt_Pocono	69	33	51	3	0.43	2	6.87	1.94	18	58	32	242
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	85	45	62	8	0.51	1	4.42	0.43	16	221	123	459
Derry	82	38	58	6	0.33	1	7.16	3.15	14	137	68	347
Myersdale	80	33	54	2	0.10	2	3.40	-1.39	16	69	-2	256
Mount Pleasant	85	40	59	8	0.45	2	4.63	-0.28	17	141	90	366
Pittsburgh Intl	86	45	62	8	0.43	1	4.69	0.88	15	205	94	438
Connellsville	87	40	61	6	0.10	1	4.01	-0.58	19	172	56	406
Waynesburg	86	41	59	6	0.46	2	3.99	-0.20	18	152	66	381
South Central												
Biglerville	80	44	60	3	0.03	1	2.98	-1.10	9	167	22	409
Everett	80	35	56	3	0.08	2	3.90	-0.15	12	94	9	303
Hanover	82	39	59	3	0.00	0	3.98	-0.10	11	158	13	393
Harrisburg_AP	82	41	60	3	0.00	0	2.55	-1.47	9	169	21	421
South Mountain	78	36	58	4	0.01	1	4.05	0.22	12	123	31	330
York	80	37	58	2	0.02	2	4.02	-0.29	12	149	-1	391
Southeast												
Green Lane	80	40	58	4	0.13	2	7.59	3.10	15	143	42	374
Hamburg	82	40	59	6	0.64	1	7.82	3.12	12	158	84	395
West_Chester	83	37	58	2	0.00	0	8.24	3.57	11	146	8	375
Lancaster	80	41	58	3	0.00	0	5.06	0.91	11	151	37	390
Neshaminy Falls	81	38	56	1	0.05	2	10.97	6.12	14	122	11	340
New Holland	80	43	60	5	0.00	0	5.84	1.69	12	175	61	407
Philadelphia	83	47	62	4	0.00	0	9.05	4.68	11	208	45	470
Philadelphia NE	84	45	61	4	0.01	1	10.38	6.01	14	201	38	463
Reading	81	40	59	4	0.14	1	4.93	0.28	13	165	65	407
Valley Forge Na	81	34	57	-2	0.00	0	8.44	3.94	14	138	-16	378
Willow Grove	81	44	59	4	0.12	2	8.10	3.25	13	174	63	411

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA) - Adams County had a nice week of weather this past week. Daytime temperatures ranged from 60-70 degrees with nights cooling into the 40's. Sunday (6th) into Monday (7th) nighttime temperatures dipped to 30 degrees. Majority of the days were sunny with some clouds and some wind conditions at times.

Corn and soybeans continue to be planted. The good weather allowed more field work to continue. Wheat and barley has really grown with the nice weather conditions we had. Hay is also growing now and looking decent.

Apple blossoms are in full bloom. Was perfect timing for the fruit growers Apple Blossom Festival held in the county this past weekend. Seem to have plenty of blossoms so hopefully that will mean a nice apple crop. Peaches, cherries, plums etc are past bloom now. Strawberries are blooming now. Some sweet corn has been planted also in the county.

Overall nice week for crops and weather in the county.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - This week was dry with some cool days and nights. No serious frost to hurt the remaining fruit crop. Apples are in full bloom now and peaches and cherries have started to swell. A lot of corn was planted this past week. Most of the early full season corn will be planted by the end of this week. A little alfalfa was cut for silage in the southern part of the county. Other small grains were cut for silage this week as well.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - Last week was a beautiful week for planting. Oats, Corn, and potatoes went in the ground this week. The low areas still need to dry out a little before planting.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - This was a good week for field work, about 1 inch of rainfall. Most corn is planted.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - This was a great week for field work. Warmer weather and winds helped to dry the fields to workable conditions. Quite a bit of oats were planted this week along with plowing for corn. Crawford County has been promoting no-till and this season we are pleased to see much of the corn and beans acreage are being no-tilled.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig - Last week was ideal for forage harvest. It was perfect timing for rye harvest with excellent drying conditions for ryelage. By the end of week the rye was past optimum condition. Intensively managed orchard grass is ready for harvest at this time. Alfalfa will be soon to follow.

Corn planting started in full swing this past week. With wider equipment it doesn't take long to cover ground. Ideal soil conditions look to hold through this week. Weeds, foxtails, are coming too.

Wheat and barley look good. Barley just heading, north of Peter's Mtn. Red clover cover cropped fields increasing in use.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The farm equipment is working double time. Many farmers finished planting oats, barley, and spring seedings. Some are still cultivating fields and planting corn. Some farms are still hauling manure and plowing it under. The four county area received 1 inch of rain. The weather has been in the farmers favor the last four days.

FULTON COUNTY, Russ McLucas - Soil conditions are drying with extreme rapidity.

JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler - Even though the weather has been cool, the alfalfa weevil started to hatch and chew.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger - Plowing is being done in better drained fields. Some early sweet corn is in. Covered sweet corn is emerging. Overall, vegetable planting in the Northeast is about a week behind.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr. - No precipitation led to much field work being completed last week. Preparing fields for planting by plowing, making silage from small grain cover crops and spraying. This was also a good week to finish building conservation practices such as terraces and waterways.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - There was some rain this week, but not enough to stop field work. Soil is drying out enough for tillage, manure hauling and some planting. Oats were planted this week as well as a little corn in areas. Scattered frost this morning, Monday, May 7th, with warm and dry weather in the forecast corn planting should pick up this week as ground conditions improve.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The dry weather conditions for the week, allowed many farmers the opportunity to plant corn, soybeans and oats. The warmer temperatures stimulated the growth on the alfalfa and timothy stands, and allowed the early sown oats to grow. The main activities for the week were plowing, planting, spraying and spreading manure.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Drier conditions allowed field work to get into full swing by week's end. Some oats, corn, soybeans, and sweet corn were planted this week. A few fields are still too wet for tillage or planting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling (EXT) - Bloom on fruit crops varies with variety and location but is better than expected after cold temperatures experienced Easter weekend.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 6, 2007

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	64	88	77
Corn, planted	32	55	41
Wheat, heading or headed	12	14	11
Oats, planted	71	91	83
Oats, emerged	21	51	46
Tobacco beds, planted	50	100	99
Potatoes, planted	23	47	43
Peaches, in pink	99	100	79
Peaches, in full bloom or past	88	100	77
Cherries, in pink	99	100	76
Cherries, in full bloom or past	87	100	73
Apples, in pink	99	100	77
Apples, in full bloom or past	41	98	70

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 6, 2007

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	1	2	20	62	15
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	3	27	57	12
Timothy clover stand	0	3	19	67	11
Pasture	2	7	27	56	8

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